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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,694	04/14/2004	Zenya Nagashima	SON-2978	5354

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EXAMINER

PETKOVSEK, DANIEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2874

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/823,694

Applicant(s)

NAGASHIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel J. Petkovsek

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on election filed February 13, 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/17/04; 10/19/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the election and amendment filed February 13, 2006. The amendment filed on February 13, 2006 added new claims 15-18. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of non-elected group to claims 4, 8, and 14 in the reply filed on February 13, 2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that new claims 15-18 have been added, in that these claims link the subcombinations previously present in Groups I (1-3, 5-7, and 9-13) and II (4, 8, and 14). The Examiner agrees to examine all claims 1-18 in response to this amendment, and the rejections to the claims are presented herewith.

2. It is noted that the Examiner retains the right to restrict between groups at any point during prosecution, if new amendments cause the state of the claims to contain patentably distinct groupings/limitations.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The prior art documents submitted by Applicant in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 17, 2004 and October 19, 2004, have been considered and made of record (note attached copy of forms PTO-1449).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Braun et al. U.S.P. No. 4,595,839.

Braun et al. U.S.P. No. 4,595,839 teaches (ABS, Figs. 1-3) an electro-optical composite connector for connecting first and second cables, said first cable incorporating a first power line and a first fiber, and said second cable also incorporating a second power line and second fiber, the connector comprising: an electro-optical composite plug having a power connecting device that connects the first power line to a supply source, and a first signal conversion means for converting an optical signal transmitted through the first fiber to a second signal and for converting the second signal transmitted through a selected path to a signal in the first fiber, and an electro-optical composite receptacle having a receiver and releasing the power connection, and a second signal converting means for converting an optical to a second electrical signal and for converting an electric signal transmitted through a selected medium to an optical signal into the second fiber, which clearly, fully meets Applicant's *claimed* limitations (in regards to the broadest independent claim 16).

Regarding claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 14, 15 (note disjunctive "or" test), 17, and 18, transmitting through a fiber can also be read as transmitting through "space", such as the space that the fiber encompasses.

Regarding claims 2, 6, 10, and 11, there is electrical connection and attachment in the system of Braun et al. '839.

Regarding claims 3, 7, 12, and 13, male and female connectors are used as the plugging means to further connect the optical/electrical components.

7. Claims 4, 8, 14-16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Plummer et al. U.S.P. No. 4,925,267.

Plummer et al. U.S.P. No. 4,925,267 teaches (ABS, Fig. 2, column 3, line 15 through column 5, line 37) an electro-optical composite connector for connecting first and second cables, said first cable incorporating a first power line and a first fiber, and said second cable also incorporating a second power line and second fiber, the connector comprising: an electro-optical composite plug having a power connecting device that connects the first power line to a supply source, and a first signal conversion means for converting an optical signal transmitted through the first fiber to a second signal and for converting the second signal transmitted through a selected path to a signal in the first fiber, and an electro-optical composite receptacle having a receiver and releasing the power connection, and a second signal converting means for converting an optical to a second electrical signal and for converting an electric signal transmitted through a selected medium to an optical signal into the second fiber, which clearly, fully meets Applicant's *claimed* limitations (in regards to the broadest independent claim 16).

Regarding claims 4, 8, 14, and 18, "space" can be defined between the fibers. It is noted that "space" is a broad term in the art.

Regarding claim 15, Plummer et al. '267 meets the disjunctive "or" test.

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Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, with respect to the state of the art of electrical/optical cable connectors: PTO-892 form references B-E.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Petkovsek whose telephone number is (571) 272-2355. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Daniel Petkovsek
April 30, 2006


AKM ENAYET ULLAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER